GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:269
ANSWERED ON:16.12.1999
AIR SERVICES BETWEEN UK AND INDIA .
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether British Airways has approached the Indian Government to open up its skies and ease restrictions on air services between UK and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government of India on the request/ approach of the British Airways; and

(d) the criteria adopted for dealing with the request for opening up our skies to the foreign airlines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a), (b), (c) and (d) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement to be laid on the table of Lok Sabha inreply to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.269 on 16.12.99 regarding Air Services between UK and India.

(a), (b), (c) and (d) : The Government of U K have been seeking bilateral negotiations for liberalising the existing air traffic rights between India and UK. Although two rounds of negotiations were held in 1996 to discuss this issue, no agreement could be reached, as the Government of UK had expressed their inability to assure convenientslots to Air India at Heathrow Airport for operationalising the additional rights. The Government of UK have nowrequested for resumption of the negotiations. The Indian Government has conveyed its willingness to hold bilateral discussions some time early next year.